

Tatyana Gershkovich  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Modern Languages  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2022– William S. Dietrich Associate Professor of Russian Studies, Carnegie Mellon University  
2022–2023 Visiting Scholar, Department of Slavonic Studies at the University of Vienna  
2016–2022 Assistant Professor of Russian Studies, Department of Modern Languages, Carnegie Mellon University  
Fall 2015 Visiting Lecturer, Russian Department, Dartmouth College

## EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University  
Dissertation: “Held Captive: Tolstoy, Nabokov, and the Aesthetics of Constraint”  
2007 B.A., magna cum laude in Slavic Studies, Harvard University

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

### Areas of Interest:

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian prose; European philosophy and intellectual history; aesthetics; philosophical skepticism; interwar émigré history and culture; migration and diaspora studies; early Bolshevik culture; feminist and postcolonial narratology; digital archives; the epistemology of computational literary analysis; Siberia as a cultural space in Imperial and Soviet Russia.

### Monograph:

*Art in Doubt: Tolstoy, Nabokov, and the Problem of Other Minds* (Northwestern University Press, 2022).

### Peer-Reviewed Publications:

2023 “Leo Tolstoy as a Literary Frontline of the Russian Revolution,” *Wiener Slavistisches Jahrbuch* (forthcoming in 2024).

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- 2023 “Introduction,” *House Rules: Reading with Authorial Instructions*. Editors Tatyana Gershkovich and Chloë Kitzinger. Essay Cluster, *Narrative 2* (May 2023).
- 2019 “Suspicion on Trial: Tolstoy’s *The Kreutzer Sonata* and Nabokov’s ‘Pozdnyshv’s Address,’” *PMLA*, 134. 3 (May 2019): 459–474.
- 2019 “Self-translation and the Transformation of Nabokov’s Aesthetics from *Kamera obskura* to *Laughter in the Dark*,” *Slavic and East European Journal* 63.2 (2019): 206–225.
- 2013 “Infecting, Simulating, Judging: Tolstoy’s Search for an Aesthetic Standard,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 74 (January 2013): 115–137.
- 2017 “Хаджи-Мурат, как прообраз эстетической восприимчивости,” (“Hadji Murat’s Exemplary Aesthetic Receptivity”) *Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Leo Tolstoy Conference at Yasnaya Polyana*, ed. by Galina Alekseeva (The Yasnaya Polyana Publishing House, 2018), 141–150. Proceedings of a peer-reviewed conference.

**Book Chapters & Other Publications:**

- 2023 “Novels of the Émigré Everyday: Bakunina, Gazdanov, Nabokov,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Novel*, eds. Julie Buckler and Justin Weir (forthcoming with Oxford University Press).
- 2022 Review: *Nabokov in Motion: Modernity and Movement* by Yuri Leving. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022. *The Russian Review*, 12 June 2023.
- 2022 “On Donna Orwin’s Study of the Three Great ‘Psychological Realists’ of Russian Prose,” *Dva veka russkoi klassiki*, vol. 4, no. 4 (2022): 276–287.
- 2019 “In Impossible Proximity: How to Read Like Nabokov,” *The Berlin Journal* 33 (Fall 2019): 55–57.
- 2016 “News of the Profession: Tolstoy and World Literature 2016,” *Tolstoy Studies Journal* 28 (2016): 143–144.

**Translation:**

- 2024 *In Praise of Idleness: Selected Essays by Yulii Aikhenvald*, co-translated and edited with Stephen H. Blackwell (forthcoming with Academic Studies Press).
- 2021 “Pozdnyshv’s Address,” Introduction and translation of Vladimir Nabokov’s 1926 dramatic monologue “Rech’ Pozdnyshveva,” *The Paris Review* 237 (Summer 2021): 106–114.

**Projects in Progress:**

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“Public Script for Private Words: Persistent Patterns in the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Russian Diary”  
(article co-authored with Simon DeDeo and Madeline Kehl; resubmitted & under review  
*PMLA*)

*Tolstoy Red and White* (monograph in progress)

**EDITORIAL WORK & DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

- 2022– Editor, *Tolstoy Studies Journal*
- 2015– Principal Investigator, *Beyond the Ant Brotherhood: A Digital Visualization of Tolstoy’s Intellectual World*, at [www.colloquy.us](http://www.colloquy.us).

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2021 NEH Summer Stipend for *The Legacy of Leo Tolstoy Inside and Outside Russia, 1920–1928*
- 2020 Gene Barabtarlo Prize for Best Essay on Nabokov, awarded by the International Vladimir Nabokov Society for “Suspicion On Trial: Tolstoy’s *The Kreutzer Sonata* and Nabokov’s ‘Pozdnyshchev’s Address’”
- 2019 Berlin Prize, The American Academy in Berlin
- 2019 Falk Grant for “Conditions of Creation: Analyzing Creativity with Computational Models,” Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 Mellon Digital Humanities (DH) Seed Grant for *Beyond the Ant Brotherhood: A Visualization of Tolstoy’s Intellectual World*, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 Berkman Faculty Development Grant for *Beyond the Ant Brotherhood: A Visualization of Tolstoy’s Intellectual World*, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 David Sloane Memorial Prize awarded for scholarly promise on the basis of “Held Captive: Tolstoy, Nabokov, and the Aesthetics of Constraint,” Harvard University
- 2016 Princeton Society of Fellows Finalist
- 2014–2015 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University
- 2014 The Harvard Graduate Society Merit Fellowship (Term-Time Research Award)
- 2014 Maurice Lazarus Travel Award, Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University
- 2013 Setchkarev Memorial Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, Harvard University
- 2011 Maurice Lazarus Graduate Research Travel Award, Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University
- 2011–2012 Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant, U.S. Department of Education
- 2011 Setchkarev Memorial Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, Harvard University
- 2007 Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for Undergraduate Thesis, “Tonality of Time: Sound and Transcendence in Vladimir Nabokov’s Fiction,” Harvard University

**CONFERENCES & PAPERS PRESENTED**

**Invited Lectures**

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- 2023 “What’s Private about the Diary?” Workshop in the Fundamentals and Applications of Humanities Analytics, Santa Fe Institute (July 14)
- 2023 “Толстовские вечера в Праге и Берлине: 1920–1935,” University of Vienna (May 11)
- 2023 “Reading Russian Philosophy in the Age of Putin: What Tolstoy Meant After the Russian Revolution—and Today,” Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen/ Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (April 26)
- 2023 Book Presentation of *Art in Doubt: Tolstoy, Nabokov, and the Problem of Other Minds*, University of Vienna (April 20)
- 2023 “Tolstoy Red and White: A Literary Frontline of the Russian Revolution,” Brown University (March 6)
- 2022 How (Not) to Read Like Tolstoy & Nabokov: Book Talk on *Art in Doubt: Tolstoy, Nabokov, and the Problem of Other Minds*, Center for Russia, East Europe & Central Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison (October 6)
- 2021 “A Madman’s Worldview,” Guest Lecture on Tolstoy’s “Memoirs of a Madman” in *Intro to the Classics of Russian Literature*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (April 14)
- 2021 Tolstoy as Editor: A Critical Reading of *The Circle of Reading*, Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge (February 4)
- 2020 “Generic Sentiments: Continuity in the 20th-Century Russian Diary,” Humanities@CMU, Carnegie Mellon University (November 13)
- 2019 “Who Should Teach Whom to Read Tolstoy? Curating the 1928 Centenary,” Gochman Lecture, Harvard University (February 27)
- 2019 “Tolstoy on Trial: Contesting the Imperial Past on Stage in Moscow and Berlin,” The American Academy in Berlin (November 19)
- 2018 “Visualizing Tolstoy’s Diaries and Letters,” Guest Lecture in the graduate seminar *Digital Humanities Approaches to Textual Objects*, University of Pittsburgh (October 11)
- 2018 “Vanity, Laziness, and Skepticism Still Possess Me. But I Continue to Fight...”: Tolstoy’s Aesthetic Cure for Doubt,” Center for Russian & East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh (March 21)
- 2017 “The Promise (and False Promises?) of Digital Humanities,” ICOR, Department of Modern Languages, Carnegie Mellon University (October 18)
- 2017 “Do You Have the Blessing to Draw Us?” Victoria Lomasko’s Artistic Authority,” City of Asylum, Pittsburgh (March 24)
- 2016 “Beauty that Doesn’t Inspire,” Department of Modern Languages, Carnegie Mellon University (March 21)
- 2015 “Against Interpretation: Tolstoy’s Aesthetic Ideal,” Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Southern California (February 12)
- 2011 “Father Zosima’s Answer to Ivan’s Question About Man’s Moral Freedom,” Guest Lecture in undergraduate course *Moral Inquiry in the Novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky*, Harvard University (November 17)

**Events & Panels Organized**

- 2023 Tolstoy and Russian Imperialism Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia (June 17–18)
- 2023 Tolstoy Studies Journal Issue Launch, Carnegie Mellon University (February 21)
- 2020 Émigré Fictions: Russian Berlin & Paris, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), organizer and panelist (November 5–8)

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- 2019 “‘House Rules’: Reading with Authorial Instructions,” American Comparative Literature Association (March 7–10), Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Seminar organizer and panelist
- 2018 Mimesis in Russian Art and Aesthetic Theory, American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) stream (February 1–4), Panel series organizer and discussant
- 2017 Tolstoy’s Silver Age, organizer, chair and presenter, ASEEEES, panel & roundtable (November 9–12)
- 2017 Victoria Lomasko, *Other Russias: Angry*, Gallery Exhibit & Artist Visit (March 19–24), Ellis Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 Mimesis in Russian Art and Aesthetic Theory, AATSEEL stream (February 2–5), Panel series organizer and discussant
- 2016 Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Nabokov: Aikhenvald and the Stakes of Criticism, ASEEEES (November 17–20)
- 2015 Rereading Russian Intellectual History Symposium, Harvard University (April 17–18)
- 2014 Confrontations with Aesthetic Philosophy in Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Nabokov, ASEEEES (November 20–23)

**Conference Presentations**

- 2024 “Tolstoy as Mirror for Russia or for the World: Emigres Read Tolstoy,” ASEEEES (November 20–December 3)
- 2024 “Reinvention of Motherhood Across Unstable ‘Homelands’,” Discussant, ASEEEES (November 20–December 3)
- 2023 “To Make an Old Preacher Your Ally: Bolshevik (mis)uses of Tolstoy,” Tolstoy and Russian Imperialism Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia (June 18)
- 2023 “Tolstoy and the Labor of Receptivity,” Functions of Criticism Conference, University of Cambridge (May 19)
- 2023 “Rereading Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, & Nabokov: New Publications,” AATSEEL (February 19)
- 2022 “Extraordinary Modernists: Nabokov, Bakunina, Gazdanov,” AATSEEL (February 18)
- 2021 “Reading Tolstoy Red: Soviet Diarists Reckon with the Author’s Narratives of Self,” ASEEEES (November 18–21)
- 2021 “Teaching the Russian Hacker,” Reimagining Russian Hackers Symposium, Yale University (May 12)
- 2020 “Tolstoy as a Ticket to Europe,” First Wave of Russian Emigration Conference, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (November 13)
- 2020 “‘Neither Germans nor Russians, but Only People’: Russia Abroad Celebrates Tolstoy,” ASEEEES (November 14–15)
- 2020 “‘Like reporters at a fire, around his soul’: Nabokov Reads Tolstoy in 1920s Berlin,” International Vladimir Nabokov Society and Literaturhaus-Berlin (June 5–6, postponed)
- 2020 “Reading Red: Early Soviet Criticism and the Emergence of the Red Tolstoy,” Society for Novel Studies, Oxford University (April 2–4, postponed)
- 2019 “Credulity or Loneliness: Reading Before and After Suspicion,” ACLA (March 7–10)
- 2019 “Trust, But Verify: Reading with the Grain After the Heyday of Critique,” Modern Languages Anniversary Symposium, Carnegie Mellon University (February 22)
- 2018 “Men, Women, and Skepticism in *Anna Karenina*,” ASEEEES (December 6–9)
- 2018 “Fictional Contracts in Russian Literature,” Invited Discussant, ASEEEES (December 6–9)

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- 2018 “Nabokov’s Lone Companion,” Transatlantic Symposium “Vladimir Nabokov and Translation,” The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill (October 27–28)
- 2018 “The Uncertain Artist in *Anna Karenina*,” ASEEEES (December 6–9)
- 2017 “Dissolving in the Words of Others: Reading Tolstoy’s *Krug Chteniya*,” ASEEEES (November 9–12)
- 2016 “The Author’s Labor: Work and Idleness in Tolstoy and Aikhenvald,” ASEEEES (November 17–20)
- 2016 “Russian Literature: Philosophy, Physiology, Intertextuality,” Invited Discussant, ASEEEES (November 17–20)
- 2016 “Хаджи-Мурат, как прообраз эстетической восприимчивости,” (“Hadji Murat’s Exemplary Aesthetic Receptivity”) 10<sup>th</sup> International Academic Conference: Tolstoy and World Literature, Yasnaya Polyana (August 11–15)
- 2016 “Unaesthetic Pleasure in Nabokov’s *Kamera Obskura* and *Laughter in the Dark*,” AATSEEL (January 7–10)
- 2015 “Convicting Pozdnyshev: Nabokov’s Variation on Pozdnyshev’s Confession,” ASEEEES (November 19–22)
- 2015 “Engineering Genius,” Philosophy and Literature: In Search of Lost Synergy, Princeton University (October 15–16)
- 2015 “An Artist as Neither God Nor Craftsman in Vladimir Solovyov’s ‘First Step Toward a Positive Aesthetic,’” Rereading Russian Intellectual History Symposium, Harvard University (April 17–18)
- 2015 “No Clear Mirror: Tolstoy’s Kantian Aesthetics,” ASEEEES (November 20–23)
- 2014 “Tolstoy’s ‘Bad’ Theory of Art,” Dumpster Diving and Sustainability: Managing the Limited Resources of Culture, Princeton University (October 17–18)
- 2014 “Don’t nod as if you agreed with me’: Obligation, Rivalry, and Monologism in Tolstoy’s *Kreutzer Sonata*,” AATSEEL (January 9–12)
- 2013 “On Beauty and Bondage: Aesthetic Experience in Tolstoy,” Slavic Languages and Literatures Colloquium, Harvard University (April 15)
- 2013 “For what purpose’: Vol’fila Debates with the Formalists,” AATSEEL (January 3–6)
- 2012 “‘Poetry Brought into the Street as a Poster’: The Agitational Aim of Dialectical Reading in *For the Voice*,” AATSEEL (January 5–8)

**ADVISING, COURSES DEVELOPED & TAUGHT**

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Radicals, Heretics, Hackers: Russian Outlaws in History, Literature, and Film  
Happiness in Russian Life and Art  
19<sup>th</sup>-Century Russian Masterpieces  
Advanced Russian: Berlin, Paris, Harbin, New York  
Advanced Russian: Great Short Works  
Intermediate Russian: Life in the City  
Elementary Russian

**Senior theses advised:** “A Russian Academic Network: An Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Realism in Russian Foreign Policy Academia,” “*A Game in Hell*: Theatrics of Destruction and Play,” “Kiev-gorod: Translation of Mikhail Bulgakov’s 1923 story.”

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DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Introduction to Russian Civilization  
Beginning Russian

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Urban Imaginary and Visual Culture, Instructor  
Imagining the City: Literature, Film, and the Arts, Teaching Assistant  
Moral Inquiry in the Novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Head Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS**

- 2022– Research Scholar, Northwestern University Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought  
2018– Peer-reviewer for *Comparative Literature*, *Russian Review*, *Slavic and East European Studies Journal*, *Slavonic and East European Review*, *Tolstoy Studies Journal*  
2016– Modern Language Association (member)  
2013– The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (member)  
2012– Association for Women in Slavic Studies (member & mentor)  
2011– American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (member)

**DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- 2022–2023 Search Committee for Vice President of Enrollment Management, Carnegie Mellon University  
2016–2022 Russian Program Coordinator & Faculty Advisor, Department of Modern Languages, Dietrich College, Carnegie Mellon University  
2022–2023 Humanities Scholars Program Committee, Carnegie Mellon University  
2020 Search Committee for open rank faculty hire in the Modern Languages Department  
2020 Anti-Racist Pedagogy Working Group in the Modern Languages Department  
2020–2022 Faculty Senate, Carnegie Mellon University (senator)  
2019–2021 Humanities Initiative Steering Committee, Carnegie Mellon University  
2019–2020 Modern Language Resource Center Steering Committee  
2018– Undergraduate Thesis Supervisor, Russian Program, Department of Modern Languages, Dietrich College, Carnegie Mellon University  
2018– Policies, Planning, & Strategic Initiatives Committee, Department of Modern Languages, Dietrich College, Carnegie Mellon University

**PROFESSIONAL WRITING & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2008 *Businessweek*, Web Writer  
2008 *New Yorker*, Freelance Russian Translator/Interpreter  
2008 *Village Voice*, Assistant to Arts Editor/Freelance Writer

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2007 *Moscow Times*, Correspondent  
2006 *Harvard Advocate*, Fiction Editor

**LANGUAGES**

Bilingual in English and Russian, elementary Ukrainian, elementary French, reading knowledge of German and Old Church Slavonic; elementary knowledge of Python